



Show Me Hostas Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 6

September, 2008

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



President Jeff Hall

Almost forgot how to relax. I said 'almost'. A lot of us need time off from gardening to do all of those projects around the house that we have been putting off. I think our neighbors must think we moved out. Unlike last year and this spring when we spent almost every minute outside doing something, we haven't spent much time working in the garden this summer. Now, it's out to mow the grass or barbecue and back in to paint, remodel bathrooms and relax.

I am writing this just after visiting the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Japanese Festival. Now the ideas are flowing again. We should all be very proud to have such a garden in our own city. Kelly and I travel and enjoy visiting botanical gardens in other cities and countries, but few come close to the quality of MO BOT. It seems like every time we visit there we see something new, find a new path or a different plant. We even spotted the resident foxes there this summer. Our next hosta meeting will be at MO BOT and I highly recommend that you attend the St. Louis Hosta Society's first ever official meeting at the garden.

During our last meeting, the idea was presented to explore the possibility of a club-sponsored bus trip to one of the many gardens or nurseries outside of St. Louis. We asked for a show of hands and saw a large number of hands voting "yes". We will work on this over the winter but if anyone has any recommendations of sites to visit or even points of interest along the way, please let us know. The auction in July was a huge success – tons of plants and an average show of people. If you missed it, you missed some great bargains.

As you know, Rick and Joan Clarkson, our hospitality chairs, have been doing a great job of providing us with drinks and food during our meetings. Both of them would like to take a break and pass the baton off to someone who would like to volunteer to help the club. At our next meeting, you can talk with the Clarksons about the job they do or ask any one of the board members for more details.

Soon the leaves will begin to fall and thoughts of winter will be on our minds. So get out there and enjoy the weather while you can.

Jeff Hall

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 21** **Meeting at Missouri Botanical Garden.**
1:00 PM in the Beaumont Room, followed by a tour
of the Garden's hosta display areas.
- October 12** **Meeting.** Author and radio personality **Mike Miller**
- November/December** **Holiday Party** – date and location to be announced

SEPTEMBER 21, 2008 MEETING MO BOT HOSTA GARDEN TOUR

1:00 PM. at Missouri Botanical Garden – Beaumont Room

Please note the change of location.

Our September meeting will be held at the Missouri Botanical Garden located at 4344 Shaw in the City of St. Louis. Current plans are to meet in the Beaumont Room for a business meeting followed by a tour of the hosta gardens. A docent will accompany us to the beds and be available to give us information about the Garden's hosta program.

October 12, 2008 Meeting

1:00 PM at Creve Coeur Community Center

Our October meeting will feature guest speaker Mike Miller, host of KMOX radio's Garden Hotline. Mixing humor and often sympathy with practical information, Mike Miller answers caller's questions on topics covering a wide range of gardening subjects. He is also the author of four gardening books and runs a landscape planning and consulting firm. Bring a friend to this sure to be entertaining afternoon.

OPINIONS OR SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED

As Jeff stated in his message, the Society would like to offer different types of programs. One such suggestion was for a bus trip to a nursery, hybridizer's garden, a botanical garden or an arboretum outside the St. Louis area. The trip could be a day excursion or a longer trip that might entail one or two overnight stays. Jeff Hall and Pam Wolkowitz would appreciate comments and destination suggestions.

Another suggestion was to hold our annual holiday banquet at a restaurant instead of a member's home, perhaps in the early afternoon instead of evening. Again please direct your comments or location suggestions to Jeff or Pam.

GOING, GOING, GONE!

Pot after pot of hostas, most from the gardens of St. Louis Hosta Society members, were on the block during the July 17 Society auction. The quantity of well-grown plants plus the spirited bidding caused the auction to run well beyond its allotted time. The conglomeration of plants included hostas large and small and companion plants to suit every taste.

\$2,363 was earned during the course of the afternoon. This money will be used to fund future speakers and other Society functions.

Many thanks to auctioneers Jeff Hall and Jean Hudson and to all who donated or bought plants.



Thanks from all to Nancy and Arlie Tempel for hosting a most enjoyable garden walk. They graciously opened their garden to club members for a leisurely evening of talk, laughter and of course viewing well grown hostas and maybe even a daylily or two. A fabulous time was had by all.

***** DON'T FORGET *****

GROSS GARDEN CONTEST instigated by Jeff Hall

Well they say if you can't beat them join them, or at least take their picture and profit from them.

Kelly and I like to visit the Pacific Northwest and while we are hiking there we always come across gigantic slugs. We have seen them exceed 6 inches in length. Thank goodness we do not have those here. But I started to wonder, just how big do they get in this area? This gave me an idea. We should have a ***SLUG PHOTO CONTEST!***

The next time you come across a large slug in your garden, take its photo next to a ruler before you dispose of it (our koi love that part). Bring your best picture to the October 12th meeting, where, as a group, we will vote on the largest slug. Pictures must be from your garden only. Winner gets a **\$25.00 gift certificate** to Avalon Acres in Effingham, IL. See sample photo below.



Future Regional and National Events

Winter Scientific Meeting – Jan 17, 2009 – Shaumburg, Illinois

Midwest Regional Hosta Society Convention – June 11-13, 2009 – Champaign, Illinois

American Hosta Society Convention – June 24-27, 2009 – Lansing, Michigan

July 10-12 Schaumburg

Destination: Chi Town Classic – 2008 Midwest Regional Hosta Convention

Purpose: Greet old friends, make new friends, and enjoy gardens beautifully populated with hosta of all sizes, shapes and colors. Below are snapshots of the various gardens.



Acorn Hollow featured some of the largest specimen hostas seen by the attendees. Among others, large clumps of Sun Power, Dick Ward and Victory thrived under the high shade of oaks and hickory. Attracting interest was a beautiful pondless waterfall, a cage of black ducks and a large mural painted on the fence.



Xanadu lived up to its name. A large collection of hostas was accented with a variety of astilbe, ferns and hydrangea. Heuchera 'Stormy Seas' stood out. An idyllic stroll passed a Japanese garden, an Asian garden, a formal knot garden with fountain (see photo) and a rock garden containing succulents, alpine plants and dwarf conifers. Sunny borders filled with daisies, Echinacea, grasses and daylilies surrounded the house.



Whamadiddle with a name as whimsical as the garden was a young garden with most of its 1500 varieties of hostas planted within the last few years. A collection of garden art accented the many theme gardens. A crown was the centerpiece of the royal garden which included many of the 'tiaras'. A dinosaur anchored the prehistoric area which included 'T-Rex'. One longs to revisit in about five years to see this massive collection closer to maturity.



Fairyland lived up to its name. The small creatures could be found resting on the ground below the grove of 70 foot pine trees, perched on the roof of the back porch or contained in their own miniature gardens. See the photo of one such garden set on a burlap covered stump. Scattered amongst a mixture of large, medium and mini hostas were Solomon's seal, bee balm, coneflowers, lilies, cannas and various grasses.



Moon Shadow is an acre and half garden, 15 percent of which is a shallow wetland. Mature shagbark hickory and oak trees provide shade for the vast collection of newly developed hostas and sports. This is a hybridizer's garden with unnamed hosta seedlings intermixed with the 450 named cultivars.



Shady Path takes advantage of the property's natural hillside topography. Paths, lined with hostas intermixed with ferns and other companion plants, wander up and down the hillside. Pockets of ginger grace a retaining wall while a totem waterfall stands nearby. It's obvious that the philosophy in this garden is 'Size Does Matter – Bigger is Better'. Large clumps of 'Golden Meadows', 'Winter Snow' and 'Frosted Jade' were particularly eye-catching.



On of the open gardens made available to convention attendees was that of Tom Micheletti, current president of the American Hosta Society. His Deer Park garden features a vast lawn bordered by hosta beds. An inviting wooden deck extends along one side of the house. The accompanying photo shows Tom dwarfed by the massive pot of 'Victory' gracing one section of his deck. Birdhouses and feeders perch on the deck railing. A look over that railing reveals yet another beautifully landscaped hosta bed.



The garden tours concluded with a barbeque held under the pavilion at *Rich's Fox Willow Pines Nursery*. Richard Eyre is a 40 year plant collector whose nursery specializes in dwarf conifers. Landscape size specimens are grown for the homeowner as well as the collector.

Richard Eyre has a big heart. He donates all profits from the sale of perennials to the Heifer Project. This organization aids people in developing nations combat hunger and poverty through donations of livestock and poultry.



photo by Sonja Keohane 1

Even in September *h. plantaginea* still struts her stuff.

Large, snowy white blooms and oh that fragrance!

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Membership Information

The American Hosta Society

Contact: Sandie Markland
8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct.
Lorton, VA 22079-3029
AHSMembershipSecretary@earthlink.net
Dues: Individual \$30 per year, Family \$34 per year

Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Contact: Pete Postlewaite
21172 Andover Road
Kildeer, IL 60047
mrhs.treasurer@midwesthostasociety.org
Dues: Individual \$20 for two years

St. Louis Hosta Society

Contact: Dave Poos
9904 Crestwood Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126
dpoos@juno.com
Dues: \$7 per year, \$18 for three years
Family or Individual

Meetings held at **1:00 PM** at the **Creve Coeur Government Center, 300 N. New Ballas, 63141** (between Ladue Road and Olive), unless otherwise noted.

Visit our Web site

www.stlouishosta.org

Other Hosta and Garden Web Sites

American Hosta Society – <http://www.hosta.org/>

Midwest Hosta Society – <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>

Hosta Library – <http://www.hostalibrary.org>

Hosta Forum – questions/answers – <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta/>

Mini Hosta forum – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta>

